

## Mountainland Region Edition

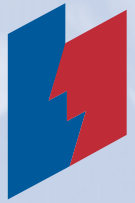
April 2002

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# EMPLOYER *Update*



the leader in lightweight durability



**Mity-Lite**, the leader in lightweight durability, was founded in Orem in 1987 as a small supplier of church banquet tables. Mity-Lite employs over 240 people and has worked extensively with the Department of Workforce Services (DWS) in filling jobs.

Mity-Lite has grown significantly and is now the world's leading designer, manufacturer, and marketer of a large variety of lightweight, durable, folding-leg tables; stacking and folding chairs; and related products used in multi-purpose rooms of the finest hospitality, educational, recreational, government, religious, and other public assembly facilities. The company has grown an average of 35% per year and is now an international player in the institutional furniture industry. Mity-Lite focuses on providing premium quality institutional furniture products to very

*The company has grown an average of 35% per year and is now an international player in the institutional furniture industry.*

specialized markets. The product lines consist of multi-purpose room furniture, healthcare seating, call center furniture and office systems. The company's products are marketed under the Mity-Lite, Broda, CenterCore, DoMore, and DO3 trade names and includes the flagship durable table line (now in its 3rd generation), stackable and folding chairs, lecterns, and table skirting.

#### State of Utah

Governor  
Michael O. Leavitt



#### Department of Workforce Services

#### Mountainland Region

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*Mity-Lite headquarters in Orem*



## **Bob Gross Resigns from Workforce Services**

Bob Gross, the Executive Director of the Utah Department of Workforce Services (DWS), resigned his position effective March 1, 2002. Bob has announced he will be a candidate for Utah's first congressional district seat vacated by the retiring Jim Hansen.

In a message to DWS employees, Bob said the decision was a difficult and painful one. "This has been an especially painful decision for me personally. Serving as the Executive Director of DWS has been, for me personally, a labor of love during the past six years (including the nearly five years of our actual operation). I have come to regard so many of you as deep and sincere personal friends. The thoughts of leaving you for a new personal endeavor have been very, very sad and difficult!"

Bob also said he leaves the department in capable hands. "I leave you with what I think and hope you agree, is an outstanding Senior Management Team. With the recent additions of Blaine Crawford as Deputy Director, John Nixon as Finance Director, Tani Downing as head of Adjudication, Kevin Beutler in Human Resources, Greg Gardner in Workforce Information Technology, Chris Love in Unemployment Insurance, and the promotion of Jim Finch as our other Deputy Director, we have strengthened and added to the other outstanding division heads and Regional Directors already in place. Our employee representatives on the Senior Management Team, both past and present, have offered remarkable leadership and employee input to the decisions that the SMT undertakes."

"May I wish each and every one of you the fondest of farewells! A part of my heart will always remain here with you and at DWS. I extend to each of you my best wishes and my best wishes for DWS. You and this department have been my labor of love. God bless you!"

## **Announcement**

Greg Gardner has been appointed by the Governor to serve as Interim Executive Director. Greg Gardner has been with the department since its inception and has many years of experience administering the state's employment and job training programs. He also has the knowledge necessary to keep the department moving forward until a new executive director is named. The selection process is expected to be completed by early April 2002.

## **TrendLines Magazine Keeps You Up to Speed**

**By Connie Blaine  
Workforce Information Coordinator**

**TrendLines** magazine, the newest labor market information product from Workforce Information, has made a big splash in just three issues. Employers, consumers and DWS employees are discovering this great source of economic news, written in plain English.

Our economists, and the guest writers who contribute feature articles to **TrendLines**, lend their expertise to help you make sense of these trying economic times. They condense and interpret the blizzard of economic data out there into easy-to-understand articles and graphs, so you don't have to be an economist to stay well-informed on the economy.

**TrendLines'** articles are short and to the point, offering the most essential news about the local, state and national economies. Most items also link to websites that provide additional information for those wanting to know more about the topic.

The bi-monthly **TrendLines** magazine is usually posted on the Web at least two weeks sooner than it is available in print. Click on "Economic Information," from the DWS home page ([jobs.utah.gov](http://jobs.utah.gov)). There you will also find "**TrendLines Extra**" - a weekly bulletin (updated each Monday) on economic news between regular **TrendLines** issues.

Never miss an issue! Subscribe to **TrendLines**, either in print, or electronically. Contact Workforce Information at (801) 526-9786. Become a regular reader of both **TrendLines** and **TrendLines Extra**, and you'll astonish others with your economic knowledge!

Smart business people know where to find the latest, most accurate information available about economic trends, the labor market, cost of living and industry trends. There's county-level economic information too, and it's all free and up-to-date on the DWS Economic Information web site: [jobs.utah.gov](http://jobs.utah.gov)



## EMPLOYER CONFERENCE

*“Economic Realities  
and the Workplace.”*

**4 April 2002**

**South Towne Expo Center  
9575 South State Street**

On Thursday, 4 April 2002, the Department of Workforce Services, along with several public and private sponsors, will host the fourth annual **Utah Employer Conference**. The purpose of the Utah Employer Conference is to provide businesses, both large and small, topical information as well as innovative solutions to the myriad of complex problems that surface on a daily basis. The theme this year is: “Economic Realities and the Workplace.”

The Utah Employer Conference will be held at the South Towne Exposition Center in Sandy. The Governor has been invited to address the attendees and comment on the state of the state and its economy. Also, the Department of Workforce Services will release its much sought after Utah wage data. And, the most family-friendly employers will be announced and recognized for the fourth annual Work/Life Awards.

The keynote speaker will be nationally renowned economics and business writer and contributing editor of *Newsweek*, **Rich Thomas**. Mr. Thomas has written and contributed to scores of cover stories on economic developments in the U.S. and abroad.

Topics covered this year during the breakout sessions may include the following:

- Cultural integration and the bottom line
- Economic forecast
- Effective mediation
- Employment law update
- Women in the workplace
- Work/Life practices
- Workplace realities
- UWORKS unveiled
- ... and more!

The price to attend the Utah Employer Conference is \$65.00 per person. For information, or to register with your MasterCard or Visa, call (888) 920-WORK (9675).

## New Web Features Coming for UI Employers

Be on the lookout for your April issue of the *Employer Advisor* newsletter featuring exciting new web capabilities for Utah's UI tax paying employers. The *Employer Advisor* will be enclosed with your quarterly report forms.

## KUDOS

**To Cathy Carey and Tracy Harris-Belnap:**

*“Thank you very much for providing such powerful classes for us. I feel charged up to tackle my life during this depressing time of unemployment. I also appreciate the Utah Department of Workforce Services for providing these fantastic, informative classes.”*

**Yuri Bennett**

**About Gerald Gappmayer:**

*“I just wanted to praise your workers in the Blanding office. I am a single mother with three children. I went in to your offices there in Blanding expecting to get the run around. I was surprised with the respectful and courteous assistance given to me by the case worker. I was very grateful for the help he gave me, if all your workers are like him, you have a great staff.”*

**unsigned**

**About Jackie Christiansen:**

*“[She] really cares about me and she really helped me realize that I was somebody, and not just another case number, by demonstrating her memorable compassion towards me. I really can't put into words my gratitude and appreciation towards her. She really cares about her clients.”*

**unsigned**

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Salt Lake City, UT 84114-3100

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## **Mity-Lite** *(Continued from page 1)*

Mity-Lite continues to expand and to increase efficiency. In the early years, the company subcontracted many of the manufacturing processes. However, the company has always had the philosophy that if they could learn to do a process themselves they would save money and make a better product for their customers. For several years, Mity-Lite has used their own state-of-the-art thermoforming, powder coating, plastics injection molding, and welding equipment. Mity-Lite's patented table design is not only lightweight, but is also capable of supporting 1600 pounds and is available in 50 sizes. Mity-Lite tables have a 12-year warranty.

In June of 2000, Mity-Lite completed construction of an additional on-site building that increased their facilities to 110,000 square feet. Mity-Lite's lobby features numerous awards presented to the company including: Best Practices award, 200 Best Small Companies award, Hot Growth Company award, and Provo/Orem Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year award.

Mity-Lite is located at 1301 West 400 North in Orem. Mity-Lite is a publically traded company (NASDAQ: MITY). For more information about Mity-Lite and their product line go to [www.mitylite.com](http://www.mitylite.com)

## **Mountainland Region**

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- Regional On-the-Job Training  
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- Regional Internships  
Lon Bowen (801) 342-2610
- Regional Economist - All Areas  
Mark Knold (801) 526-9458